

News, Travel & Events

NCUPS "Underwater Imaging Today" Weekend Seminar with Berkley White
January 12th/13th 2007



The Northern California Underwater Photographic Society (NCUPS.org), in conjunction with Backscatter Underwater Video and Photo of Monterey, and Wallin's Dive Center of San Carlos, proudly presents a very special FREE two-day underwater photo and video weekend seminar with world-renowned underwater digital photography expert, Berkley White.

www.ncups.org



Dive In To Earth Day Week of April 22, 2007

Dive In To Earth Day is an international Earth Day celebration that mobilizes environmentally conscious communities, park managers, dive shops and other marine lovers around the world to take a stand in protecting our endangered water world.

Dive In has become a huge driving force for environmental awareness and has involved thousands of participants in active marine conservation. In the past seven years, Dive In organizers have held 2,000 marine conservation events in 117 countries worldwide, removing trash, educating children and their communities, supporting marine protected areas and much more.

It's easy, it's fun and anyone can participate!

www.coral.org

Upcoming International Photo & Video Competitions

DivePhotoGuide.com

We hope you spent your holiday doing what we did – going through another year's worth of images and submitting to competitions! You still have some time for some big ones in January and February. Start your new underwater photography year off on the right foot. Enter your best shots and you can win great prizes and eternal glory.

Jan 7

2nd Annual Wetpixel and DivePhotoGuide International Photo & Video Competition: Our World Underwater 2007

www.underwatercompetition.com/owu.php

Jan 7

DEEP Indonesia International Underwater Photo Competition 2007

www.underwatercompetition.com/deep.php

Jan 31

British Underwater Image Festival

www.divemagazine.co.uk/news/article.asp?UAN=2977&v=1&sp=

Feb 1

Underwater Images 2007

<http://uwimages.org/2007/index.htm>

Feb 28

OzTek '07 Photo Competition

www.diveoztek.com.au/terms.html

www.divephotoguide.com



The 2nd Annual Wetpixel.com and DivePhotoGuide.com International Photo & Video Competition ... in association with Our World-Underwater

FINAL CALL! Our panel of celebrity judges will select winners after the 11:59PM (Pacific Time), Jan 7, 2007 deadline. Winners will be announced on stage at the 2007 Our World-Underwater film festival in Chicago, Illinois (February 9-11, 2007), and will be published by our supporting media partners worldwide

www.underwatercompetition.com

Light and Water 2007 27th January 2007, Southampton, England

Cameras Underwater in association with Wild Arena and Ocean Optics are very pleased to announce our first specialist photographic seminar- Light and Water 2007.

Light and Water 2007 will combine inspirational presentations from leading marine and wildlife photographers with practical workshops designed to help you take better photographs in and around water.

Speakers confirmed already include Heather Angel, a leading

www.uwpmag.com

figure in wildlife photography for over 20 years, Louise Murray, a photojournalist with far reaching experience, BBC cameraman Mark Carwardine, zoologist and award winning writer and Paul Kay, an authority on underwater photographic technique and an expert on British marine life. Other guests are still to be confirmed.

The cost is just £99 including refreshments and a hot buffet lunch.
www.camerasunderwater.co.uk
www.wildarena.com

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Australia's Coral Sea
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French Polynesia
Fiji, Hawaii,
Sea of Cortez
Revillagigedo Islands
Cocos & Malpelo Islands
The Galapagos
Wrecks of Palau

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Cocos & Malpelo, with "Her Highness" & "Her Deepness" and Amos Nachoum

May 17 - June 03 and May 21 - June 05, 2007



Amos Nachoum will be joined by 'Her Deepness' Dr. Sylvia Earle and 'Her Highness' Dr. Kathryn Sullivan on two special trips to Cocos and Malpelo this year.

Cocos, the legendary desert island of Robinson Crusoe, and remote Malpelo Island, 200 miles plus off Colombia, are world-renowned for the electrifying beauty of their blue water diving. These islands offer an opportunity to dive with the never-ending schooling of hammerhead sharks, the occasional whale shark, hundreds of white-tip sharks and bait balls. Both expeditions will have the unique ability to dive in rotation in one of the new submarine on board which provide a rare undersea exploration to 1500 feet deep!

We will operate the two vessels

in concert with each other. The first expedition departs Costa Rica on May 18 aboard the Sea Hunter with Dr. Sylvia Earle, proceeding to Cocos and Malpelo. The second expedition, departing on May 22, accompanies Dr. Kathryn Sullivan aboard the Undersea Hunter to the island of Cocos, exclusively

Sylvia and Kathryn will be diving and sharing their vast and amazing life experiences on a daily basis with us. They will also lead some of the evening presentations during our diving expedition. Amos will share his skills in BigAnimals photography and will screen slide presentations of his famous camera work.

www.biganimals.com

Join Wetpixel in the Solomon Islands aboard the M/V Bilikiki

September 11-25, 2007



Wetpixel.com and photographer Eric Cheng are leading an expedition to the Solomon Islands aboard the M/V Bilikiki from September 11-25, 2007! The Solomon Islands are one of my favorite dive destinations, and offer everything from tiny pygmy seahorses to huge barracuda tornados. The topography (both topside and underwater) is absolutely breathtaking, and the crew and guides on the Bilikiki are one of the best I've encountered.

In addition to the leadership of veteran managers Monty Sheppard and Michelle Gaut, Wetpixel members and award-winning photographers Cor Bosman and Julie Edwards will also be on this trip.

Cor and Julie have literally spent months in the Solomon Islands aboard the Bilikiki, and their knowledge of the area is impressive. Eric Cheng will be onboard offering informal underwater photography advice.

The total price for our 14-night charter is \$4,144 + a \$140 government tax on food and accommodation (\$4,284 total). Price is for double-occupancy in deluxe staterooms with private head and shower, not including return airfare to Honiara.

<http://wetpixel.com/trips/solomons/>

Revolution in Online Photo Galleries



Two friends have launched an innovative new website that will give your online photo collection a professional makeover.

Over the past 18 months Windsor-based web designers Jack Sanderson, 36, and Matt Woodage, 29, have dedicated their spare time to producing thebigpicturelibrary.com, a web-based facility that allows users to upload their pictures and display them in a variety of stylish formats.

The whole process from registration to upload and display provides an intuitive, no-nonsense approach that puts some of its more cumbersome rivals to shame.

The free package allows users to quickly upload 250 photos, they then choose from one of 16 backgrounds to display them to friends and family or for work purposes.

The photo websites are dynamically generated which allows

users to interact with their site, changing the background template with a single click and giving them creative control over their images.

Sharing the images with friends couldn't be easier as each user has their own web address and there is no subscription or fee to view or print the pictures.

Jack explained: "My father is a professional photographer and I wanted to create a site which would allow him to display his images in different ways for different client groups, that is where this all started and it has just kept on growing.

We have had an amazing response since we launched it with over 1,000 people registering in the first weekend. It is very exciting and the feedback we have received has been great. People like the professional look the templates bring to their photos and that they can change the backdrop to suit the people who will be viewing the pictures.

We can provide a more specialist service if required and are in the process of developing upgrades aimed at the corporate market which will provide greater capacity for larger photo collections and offer even more flexibility."

www.thebigpicturelibrary.com

2007 Bimini Shark Encounter 4-13 March 2007



Our course provides one of the ultimate hands-on shark experiences! Based at the renowned Bimini Biological Field Station (Sharklab) in the Bahamas, this experience will enable you to work with, learn about and film/photograph a range of sharks led by the world well-known shark biologists Samuel "Doc" Gruber and Dean Grubbs. You will learn about shark biology and conservation through a number of illustrated lectures and videos by scientists who are actively studying these magnificent predators. In addition you will film and photograph them with prize-winning photographer Sune Nightingale. We are not aware of any other excursion that offers such hands-on activity with wide range of shark species, learning in a quasi-academic setting and offering the opportunity to film under the tutelage of professional film makers.

www.wildeye.co.uk/sharks.html

Divester/Wetpixel T-shirts Available Now!



The limited edition Divester/Wetpixel t-shirts that Eli Woolery designed are now available. Printed on 100% cotton tees, the shirts are available in sizes small, medium, large, and x-large, and are printed on black shirts -- which, by the way, look totally cool! Order while they're hot, because we're only printing 200.

The prices for the shirts are: \$17.00, shipping included, if you want one sent within the USA/Canada. \$27.00, shipping included, if you want one sent outside the USA/Canada.

www.divester.com/2006/10/25/divester-wetpixel-t-shirts-available-now/

NCUPS Seminar featuring Kawika Chetron

February 9, 2007



The Northern California Underwater Photographic Society (www.NCUPS.org), proudly presents a very special seminar with underwater photographer and artist Kawika Chetron of Coldwaterimages.com. An avid scuba diver since 1986 and an accomplished underwater photographer - who only recently took up the art in 2004 - Kawika Chetron's photos capture astonishing whimsical personalities rarely captured in sealife, stunning clarity of colors, and a three-dimensional depth that combine to envelope the viewer in the emotion of the moment.

This prodigal talent will offer up advice on how to capture the moment in a millisecond, shooting and lighting techniques, and choosing the right

underwater photography equipment. Kawika has shot extensively with a Canon 10D Digital SLR camera in a Subal C10 housing prior to April 2006, and a Canon 5D SLR camera Digital in a Subal CD5 housing ever since. Kawika uses powerful Nikon SB-104 Speedlight underwater strobes to illuminate his subject matter.

Kawika Chetron's underwater photography seminar will take place Friday, February 9, 2006, at 8:00 p.m. Location: New Vision United Methodist Church, 450 Chadbourne Avenue, Millbrae, CA 94030 - ten minutes south of the San Francisco International Airport. Cost for first-time visitors is FREE.

www.ncups.org

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Solomon Islands Expedition
September 11-25, 2007
M/V Bilikiki

Join a photography and videography expedition to the Solomon Islands with Wetpixel.com. **Eric Cheng** and **Solomons experts Cor Bosman and Julie Edwards** will lead the trip with long-time managers **Monty Sheppard** (at right) and **Michelle Gaut**.

Trip is nearly full, so book soon!

<http://wetpixel.com/solomons/>

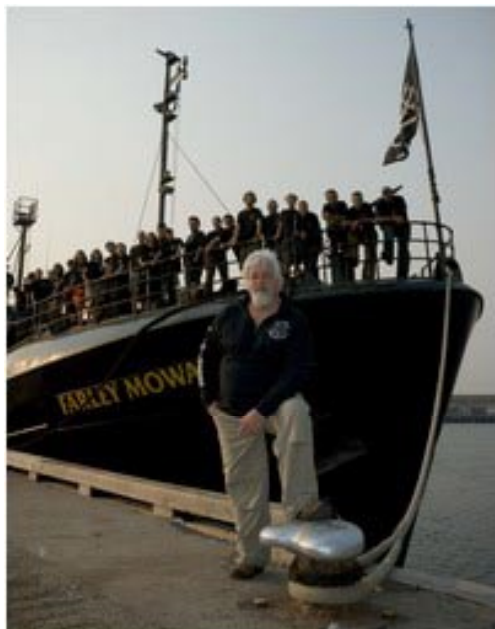


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Come see why our sponsors and partners work with us!



Sea Shepherd Launches Operation Leviathan



The Japanese whaling fleet is determined to slaughter more than 1,000 whales in the Antarctic Whale Sanctuary (Photo by Mark Votier)

On Saturday, the 23rd of December [Australian EST(Eastern Summer Time)], the international volunteer crew of the Sea Shepherd flagship Farley Mowat departed from Melbourne. The departure of the ship launches our campaign to intercept Japanese whaling operations in the Antarctic Whale Sanctuary: Operation Leviathan.

The Farley Mowat is expected to arrive in the whaling area during the first week in January where the flagship will rendezvous with the

organization's newly acquired second ship, code-named Leviathan. The two ships with over 60 international volunteer crewmembers, a helicopter, and numerous smaller vessels will confront the Japanese whalers on the high seas. The volunteers represent thirteen nations with crewmembers from Australia, Bermuda, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Hungary, Great Britain, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United States.

The Japanese whaling fleet is

determined to slaughter more than 1,000 whales in the Antarctic Whale Sanctuary – where it is illegal to kill whales. Japan has doubled its illegal quota of piked (Minke) whales to just over a thousand, and will be targeting endangered fin whales, and for the first time since the early eighties, 50 endangered humpback whales.

“Sea Shepherd is the only organization in the world willing to go to the Antarctic to intercept the Japanese whaling fleet and shut them down,” said President and Founder of Sea Shepherd Captain Paul Watson. “This is an international effort to uphold international law against a pirate whaling operation. We are not going south to hang banners or to film and photograph whales dying. We intend to defend the whales.”

Australians have come out in force to support Sea Shepherd in the past several months. During our stay in Australia, over 30,000 people have visited the Farley Mowat in both Fremantle and Melbourne. The crew has given numerous tours of the ship and participated at events around the country over the past several months. Thousands of new Oz supporters have joined the Society. Among them, advertising guru John Singleton and Bluetongue Brewery are supporting the campaign through the launch of their website www.whalesafebeer.com. The citizens of

Melbourne have been very generous to Sea Shepherd by contributing tons of food, tools, supplies, and donations that are so vital to the campaign. Australian media coverage has been unprecedented as the momentum of the anti-whaling movement is reaching a critical mass. There is no doubt but that Australians love the whales.

A crowd of supporters were on hand to send off the crew of the Farley Mowat. The conservation vessel flew the flag of Fremantle, Western Australia, when the ship departed. The flag had been given to the ship by Fremantle Mayor Peter Tagliaferri with the request that we fly it in the Southern Oceans.

The ship also flew the Bluetongue beer flag in honor of Bluetongue's sponsorship of the expedition. And, of course, the ship flew both the Australian and the Aboriginal flag as a courtesy to a people who are dedicated to shutting down the criminal operations of the Japanese whaling fleet.

Sea Shepherd Conservation Society welcomes your support. To learn how to support our conservation work, please visit our donation page www.seashepherd.org/donate.html



URPRO continues to be honored by many professional and amateur photographers from all corners of the globe who use our underwater correction filters to capture the full spectrum of color on their pictures. Many are just discovering the magic of underwater photography while others are veterans who have transitioned through film, video, and cine, and who are now avid digital enthusiasts.

Recently, we received a series of vibrant images along with a letter from Paul LeBourgeois, MD who has used the URPRO filters for many years. His enthusiasm for scuba diving and underwater photography is contagious. With his permission, we'd like to share part of the letter and some of his copyrighted images.

April, 2006
Dear URPRO

.....I was introduced to diving by my father in 1960. At this time the basic equipment was mask, snorkel, fins, and a hard plastic back-pack to which an enormously heavy tank was attached. It had the life-saving 'J-valve' which warned when the air was almost gone. I think my Dad and I had the first single-hose regulators made. At this time, there were no pressure gauges, no depth gauges, and no weights.....and we had absolutely no idea that "dive tables" existed. We relied solely on the notion that if we didn't ascend faster than our bubbles, we'd be OK....oh how times have changed!

In 1986 my wife and I took a trip to Bonaire where she rented a VHS underwater camera and housing. Initially, I thought that there would be no better way to waste time underwater than fooling around with this "gadget." Half-way through the dive, my wife handed me the camera to take some footage of her. Upon our return home, I became "motion-sick" sitting on the couch as I watched the footage captured by my unsteady camera movements. But it was too late—I was and still remain enamored at capturing underwater pictures.....

My profession as a pathologist allows me to travel the world and to pursue my passion of underwater photography. Recent travel destinations are focused on Indonesia and Papua New Guinea where I record the variety of colorful species found near the 'Wallace Line.' Through the years, I have used almost every video camera and housing that was labeled as "this year's sensation."

...My first URPRO filter was purchased in about 1990 for the Sony MPK-TRS which was the first housing I could get my hands on that shot 8mm video. Since that time I've tried almost every brand and variation of housing and camera, but I always purchased

the URPRO filter because it was the only one that really worked. If I purchased a system with a pre-supplied filter that looked like a washed out jelly-bean, I would immediately replace it with URPRO filter. I don't know how many custom URPRO filters I've had made for my systems, but the most recent is a huge filter that fits over the front of my HD FX1 housing so I can use the internal flip-in device for a diopter to get good macro.

I am humbled, gratified, and proud to experience the magic of the underwater world, and without URPRO filters on my cameras, I would probably have quit long ago, because for me, the devil is in the details, and color is king.

Signed,
Paul LeBourgeois
24 April 2006

[Click on images to view Paul LeBourgeois](#)
[Copyright Movie Clips](#)



www.urprofilters.com